

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3353

UNCLAS LONDON 11751

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, UK

SUBJ: CIVAIR - UK AVIATION POLICY

REF: COLWELL-STYLES TELECON

1. TRADE SECRETARY SHORE ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF UK CIVIL AVIATION POLICY REVIEW ON JULY 29. CHANGES IN UK POLICY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CONCEPT OF DUAL DESIGNATION ON LONG-HAUL SCHEDULED SERVICES IS TO BE ABANDONED. THIS MEANS BCAL WILL LOSE ITS RIGHTS TO NEW YORK, LOS ANGELES, ATLANTA, TORONTO, HOUSTON, AND BAHRAIN/SINGAPORE. BCAL, HOWEVER, WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE ITS DOMESTIC AND EUROPEAN SCHEDULED OPERATIONS.

(B) A "SPHERE OF INFLUENCE" POLICY FOR LONG-HAUL SCHEDULED SERVICES WILL BE INTRODUCED. THIS CONFIRMS BCAL ON ITS EXISTING OPERATIONS TO WEST AFRICA AND SOUTH AMERICA. OTHER LONG-HAUL OPERATIONS WILL REMAIN WITH BRITISH AIRWAYS.

(C) LAKER SKYTRAIN LICENSE WILL BE CANCELLED. IN THIS REGARD, SHORE SAID HE WAS CONVINCED THAT IF SKYTRAIN "WERE TO GO AHEAD IN CONDITIONS LIKELY TO PREVAIL IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC MARKET FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME AHEAD, IT WOULD DIVERT TRAFFIC AWAY FROM EXISTING SERVICES AND IN PARTICULAR DAMAGE BRITISH AIRWAYS."

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2. SHORE SAID ABOVE CHANGES WOULD BE INCORPORATED IN

NEW POLICY GUIDANCE FOR CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (CAA)
FOR WHICH PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WOULD BE SOUGHT IN THE
AUTUMN. HE IS ALSO CONSIDERING POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO
1971 CIVIL AVIATION ACT WHICH SET UP CAA. WHITE PAPER
WITH FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE FALL.

3. WE UNDERSTAND FROM BOTH LAKER AND DEPARTMENT OF
TRADE OFFICIALS THAT UK DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND TO
WITHDRAW LAKER AIRWAYS U.S. DESIGNATION EVEN THOUGH HIS
UK LICENSE WILL BE CANCELLED. WHEN ASKED WHY DESIGNATION
WAS TO REMAIN, ONE DOT OFFICIAL SAID HE WASN'T CERTAIN
WHY MINISTERS HAD SO DECIDED BUT HE THOUGHT THEY IN-
TENDED THAT IT BE LEFT AS A "MONUMENT TO U.S. INTERPRE-
TATION OF THE WORDS 'WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY' IN US/UK AIR
SERVICE AGREEMENT."

4. COPY OF SHORE'S ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH IS VERY BRIEF,
WILL BE SUBMITTED BY AIRGRAM.

RICHARDSON

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